

State Hist. Society



Yearly Subscription \$1.00

"Financial problems are nuts and clover for demagogues."—J. A. GARFIELD.

H. S. GIVLER, Prop.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

WA-KEENEY, KAN., MAY 19, 1900.

NUMBER 11

### Agricultural Future of Western Kansas.

From the Sharon Springs Times.  
The following paper was read by Geo. R. Altman, of Wallace county, before the 29th annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture:

The treeless and short-grass region of Kansas has been the cause of many strange and peculiar demonstrations in the past twenty years, not to mention the waste of labor, time and money, nor the heartaches of mothers, children and fathers, in their failing efforts at home-making, as they had been taught and learned it in the East or great central West of our country. Newspapers have tried, thousands of good citizens have worried and labored, and have left and condemned the country, without being able to remove the veil that blinded the present and concealed the future.

Misrepresentation and perhaps false advertising, by corporate and indirect individual interests, have done more to check the successful agricultural advance than anything else. Geologically, meteorologically, and perhaps geographically, this region differs largely from the eastern and central part of the state. Being a treeless region, ranging in average altitude between 2500 and 3000 feet with an average rainfall of only seven or eight inches, is perhaps the true cause, and should be reason enough for the fact that farming for grain, measured in the bushel will be attended with failure and consequent loss.

The positive farmer from the East is gone, or going; the rainmaker has shut up shop; but the irrigator, the cow-farmer and experimental farmer remain, and upon them depends the near future prosperity of western Kansas.

The valleys of the Arkansas river and tributaries in the south, the Republican river and tributaries in the north and northwest, are perhaps better favored with conditions naturally suited to grain and tame-grass growing than the central part. Yet there is found the Smoky Hill river with its tributaries and valleys.

The entire district is generally covered with a rich, sandy, clay loam to a depth from one to twenty feet, and we will estimate that there is a surface flow of water enough to successfully irrigate one per cent and possibly much more if all the water in the flowing streams were used on the land by gathering it into reservoirs or basins during the winter, fall and early spring months, when the loss by evaporation is the least, together with the flood waters of the summer, and holding and reserving it for use when needed during the growing season.

Another twelve or fifteen per cent is the second bottom or valley land, where permanent water supply is found at depths ranging from ten to thirty feet, where the water may be raised by windmill or other power and pump; a twelve-foot windmill and ten-inch pump being considered necessary, if the water is pumped into and used from a reservoir, to successfully irrigate from four to ten acres. It will do much more, no doubt, if economically used, by the pipe system of subirrigation.

Here we see the prosperous and happy home of the present, shaded and sheltered with thrifty, growing trees; door-yards blooming with beautiful flowers, orchards, and fruit-cellars filled with vegetables; fields and corrals, sheds and barns, filled with stock, surrounded with tons and tons of bright alfalfa and other valuable crops. The future agricultural prosperity of this part of the great plains cannot now be estimated.

But eighty per cent more of western Kansas is made up of prairie flats, or table-land, undulating with slight depressions or draws, and from 80 to

150 feet higher than the main valleys or water courses; yet even here, generally, a permanent water-supply is found at various depths, nearly corresponding with the altitude above the valleys.

Whether this water-supply is maintained from the rainfall on the plains, or from other source, is another question. It has been demonstrated beyond doubt that in some localities, at least, the supply does not vary in volume—as shown by springs, or natural artesian flow, or supply in wells—in years of maximum or minimum rainfall.

And there is probably no doubt but that there is permanent water supply enough under each acre of the whole district to make up the deficiency of moisture at the surface of that acre for luxuriant crop growth each year, if it were practicable to raise it to the surface cheaply enough.

The lands are generally covered with buffalo, grama and other nutritious grasses and plants, that nature has provided with the power of retaining their value when cured or dried on the plant by the sun, and of drought resistance to a wonderful degree even to the partial drying of the roots, and again commencing to grow where growth left off, from the moisture of only a slight shower.

The winter climate is mild and dry. The sunshine averages more than half the daytime. An occasional cold wave after a light snowfall is expedited by the warm atmosphere, and in three to six days the snow is generally gone.

From personal knowledge, I know of but one winter during the past twenty-seven years during which snow covering the ground remained more than two weeks at any time.

Various estimates were made by the large herd owners and free-range system of several years ago of the number of acres required per year to feed or grow one cow or steer. The area has been placed as high as twenty-five and thirty acres, and as low as fifteen acres, twenty acres being generally considered enough to graze one animal.

At that rate, the western one-fourth of Kansas is capable of annually keeping or supplying, from its native grasses or plants alone, nearly one million head of cattle or horses, or four times that many head of sheep.

But that system of stock management met with many great losses, through neglect and want of water and feed at proper times, and soon after the grain farmer passed away under the natural demand of the small-herd, stock-growing farmer.

For homes western Kansas is essentially a small stock man's country, and he is the one who successfully connects the plow to the stock farm, by cultivating, planting, maturing and storing of such crops, adapted to the climate conditions, that will make the best feed.

And in all cases so far the results of experiments have proved that the land used without irrigation should be subsided to a depth of at least fifteen inches, always plowed deep in the fall, and the surface only shallow cultivated or harrowed and reharrowed in the spring or growing season.

With a proper seed-bed and careful planting at the right time in all average years a fair crop may be secured. The contented stock-farmer will grow trees to shade and shelter his home. He will have one-half acre or more, as his wants may demand, close to a well. By its assistance, and with intense cultivation, he will produce vegetables and fruit in abundance for the table.

The future successful western Kansas stock farmer will grow from the best improved kind, for he will know that it is as easy to grow a good animal as a scrub, and that it is always more valuable. Under no circumstances will he attempt to have more than

he can keep in a growing or thrifty condition.

With the conditions here briefly outlined and now rapidly advancing, the future prosperity of western Kansas is assured, and instead of a few owning their thousands, or the deceptive prospect of a large acreage planted for grain, with its attendant dream and nightmare of empty granaries at harvest, western Kansas will be populated with thousands of contented citizens, owning their own homes, and producing annually vast numbers of cattle, hogs and other stock, to be fed and finished for market with Kansas corn.

The future agriculture of western Kansas is directly interested in all new requirements of valuable plants adapted to a semi-arid climate, and is entitled to attention, and should receive all the benefits to be derived by thorough investigation and practical experimental means by the department of agriculture. The short-grass farmer is also interested in forestry advancement within the borders of Kansas, and perhaps indirectly interested in the preservation of the great forests of the Rocky mountains, to the west only a couple hundred of miles. With the mountains and flood waters of the Arkansas river toward the southwest, and of the Platte river to the west and northwest, all preserved and used on the surface, with the sub-escape and gradual evaporation, all tend to promote a more humid atmosphere and increase local rainfall. All of these factors, working with energies combined, will cause the oasis to spread from the valleys and cover the plains of western Kansas.

**CASTORIA.**  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Beware the Signature of *Cast. H. Fletcher*  
That India-Famine Relief Fund.

Elsewhere will be seen a statement of the amount collected and forwarded to F. D. Coburn for the India sufferers. This has been in answer to the appeal sent through State Supt. Nelson to the schools. Our schools were nearly all out so I issued a circular to the school boards and am happy to state that in several instances the reply has been hearty, far exceeding my expectation. In others no reply as yet, though several will still send in something. I cannot forbear mentioning the generous response from Districts 31 and 43—\$4.00 and \$5.20 respectively, and I notice that the largest individual donation was from District 43. One gentleman gave \$5, no word of praise can be too great for a man who can be so generous and open hearted as he has been and to his eternal credit will be placed the saving of several lives by his acts of generosity.

Many excuses are offered for failure to give even a little, the favorite one being that England ought to look after her own subjects, etc.

Fellow citizens—This is for humanity. There are one hundred millions more than our whole nation, in actual suffering and ten millions near death or dying! Is England responsible for a million square miles of densely populated country, usually fertile, without a drop of rain, a blade of grass, wells, ponds, rivers, dried up, an absolute desert?

The English government has given \$75,000,000, the English people more, the Imperial government more to abate the suffering. Thousands their time and labor, not has the work ceased. I am not a missionary nor can I say that I love the Hindoo, but I hope for the sake of humanity and mercy that no one will hold back from giving a little, for any excuse whatever.

HUDSON HARLAN,  
County Supt.  
**CASTORIA.**  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Beware the Signature of *Cast. H. Fletcher*

### India-Famine Relief Fund.

To May 12, 1900.

RECEIPTS.	
District 1.....	\$ 0.00
" 2.....	2.85
" 8 (Plummer S. School).....	1.15
" 10.....	.10
" 11.....	.75
" 19.....	1.25
" 25.....	.50
" 31.....	4.00
" 41.....	.50
" 42.....	.25
" 43.....	8.20

Total to May 12.....\$28.55

### DISBURSEMENTS.

Forwarded to F. D. Coburn, Treasurer.....	\$ 9.00
J. L. Shener.....	17.30
H. Harlan.....	2.25

Total.....\$28.55

Since sending the report of India-Famine Relief fund to press three more districts have sent in as follows: District 35, \$1.00; 39, \$5.75; 47, \$2.50. Raising the total to \$37.25.

### HOW'S THIS?

We offer One Dollar Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.  
We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions, and financially able to carry out any obligation made by their firm.

WEST & TRUAX,  
Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.  
WARDING, KENNAN & MARVIN,  
Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.  
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by Druggists. Testimonials free.  
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

### RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

HALL OF WA-KEENEY LODGE No. 1,  
200 A. O. U. W., May 15, 1900.  
Whereas, It has pleased the benevolent Father of All in His infinite wisdom to take from our membership our Master Workman, Brother George McKinley, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved wife our heartfelt sympathy, and commend her to Him whom we will sustain her in this sad hour of affliction.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be made a part of the official records of this Lodge and that a copy of the same be furnished the bereaved widow of Brother George McKinley; that a copy be furnished the county press and Kansas Workman for publication, and that our charter be draped for thirty days.

F. H. BURNHAM,  
J. A. ESCHER,  
H. S. GIVLER,  
Committee

### DYSPEPTICIDE

The greatest aid to DIGESTION.

DOES IT PAY TO BUY CHEAP?  
A cheap remedy for coughs and colds is all right, but you want something that will relieve and cure the more severe and dangerous results of throat and lung troubles. What shall you do? Go to a warmer and more regular climate? Yes, if possible; if not possible for you, then in either case take the ONLY remedy that has been introduced in all civilized countries with success, in severe throat and lung troubles, "Boscher's German Syrup." It not only heals and stimulates the tissues to destroy the germ disease, but allays inflammation, causes easy expectoration, gives a good night's rest, and cures the patient. Try one bottle. Recommended many years by all druggists in the world. For sale by Jones & Gibson.

### Verbeck's Prices.

Corn chop, 85c per 100 lbs.  
Half corn and half barley, chopped, 80c per 100 lbs.  
Barley chop, 75c per 100 lbs.  
Corn meal, \$1.00 per 100 lbs.  
Plenty of flour always on hand.  
Grinding 4c per bushel by load.

Patronage hangs on a thread; that thread is your satisfaction. Treat you honestly and it's as strong as a cable; abuse your confidence and it may snap like a cobweb.

**We are striving to build Cables.**

therefore we handle

**TEAS AND COFFEES**

Imported by

**CHASE & SANBORN.**

This name means a great deal in these days of CHEAP EVERYTHING; it is a name that brings to you a guarantee and satisfaction that no other line of tea and coffee will produce.

**C. C. BESTOR,**

Agent for

**CHASE & SANBORN'S**

Importations

"SEAL BRAND" COFFEES.

"BUFFALO CHOP" TEAS.

**C. C. BESTOR.**

### CASH GROCERY.

J. J. DRUMMOND, PROP.

DEALER IN—

STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES,  
FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES,  
CANDIES, TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

These goods are all fresh and clean.

Highest market price paid for butter and eggs.

### FRANK WOLLNER.

DEALER IN—

DRY GOODS, STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES.

ORANGES, LEMONS AND OTHER FRUITS  
CANDIES, TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

These goods are all fresh and clean.

We want your produce.

### C. J. FERRIS & CO.,

DEALERS IN—

FURNITURE AND FUNERAL SUPPLIES.

I will furnish every thing in the line of Undertaking that can be found anywhere.

All calls answered day or night.